

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 19677 171522Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
----- 045169 /55
R 171203Z DEC 76
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2185
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 19677

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, UR, CI
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE RELEASE OF BUKOVSKIY

REF: STATE 305586

1. BEFORE RECEIPT OF REFTTEL, WE HEARD FROM SOURCES CLOSE TO ACADEMICIAN SAKHAROV THAT THEY UNDERSTOOD THAT BUKOVSKIY WAS ABOUT TO BE RELEASED FROM VLADIMIR PRISON AND EXPELLED FROM THE USSR. IN EMBOFF'S PRESENCE, EVENING OF DEC 16, THEY TELEPHONED SAKHAROV WHO SAID, "I CAN TELL YOU NOTHING OFFICIAL YET, BUT IT LOOKS GOOD." ACCORDING TO THE RUMORS, BUKOVSKIY WAS TO BE RELEASED ON THE 17TH OR 18TH AND, OUR SOURCES SAID, WOULD BE EXPELLED BY TRAIN THROUGH BREST IN ORDER TO AVOID THE POSSIBILITY OF COVERAGE BY WESTERN CORRESPONDENTS, WHICH WOULD BE THE CASE IF HE WERE TO LEAVE BY AIR FROM MOSCOW. ACCORDING TO OUR SOURCES, MRS. BUKOVSKIY WOULD ALSO BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE.

2. OUR SOURCES ARE UNABLE FORMALLY TO LINK THE POSSIBLE RELEASE OF BUKOVSKIY TO ANY DECISION ON THE PART OF THE CHILEAN GOVERNMENT TO RELEASE CORVALAN, ALTHOUGH THEY ASSUME THAT CORVALAN WILL INDEED BE FREED. THEY EXPRESSED
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SURPRISE THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT WOULD AGREE TO EXCHANGE BUKOVSKIY FOR CORVALAN SINCE THE LATTER IS MUCH MORE USEFUL TO THEM IN PRISON THAT HE WOULD BE OUT OF IT. THEY ARE ALSO SURPRISED THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT IS WILLING TO ALLOW ITSELF TO BE PRESSURED INTO THIS SORT OF TRANSACTION, BECAUSE OF ITS POSSIBLE PRECEDENTIAL

NATURE.

3. MOSCOW-BASED CORRESPONDENTS LEARNED OF STORY
ON MORNING OF DEC 17, AND GOT CONFIRMATION FROM SAKHAROV.

MATLOCK

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NNN

Message Attributes

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